Demand II—Agriculture and Panchayats—Rs. 1,000.

President.—The next Demand is that of the Superintendent of Agriculture and Panchayats.

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—Sir, I rise to move for an additional allotment of Rs. 1,000 under "II—Agriculture and Panchayats. 2—Farm operations Travelling Allowance" for the officers attached to the Central Farm. There are three officers attached to the Farm; viz., the Chemistry Assistant, the Mycologist and the Entomologist. They have duties in the Central Farm. They have also touring work elsewhere, that is to say, they have also to attend to the inspection of Panchayat Offices. I proposed an allotment of Rs. 1,500 at the time the budget was prepared, but only Rs. 1,000 was sanctioned. The allotment under "Travelling allowance" for this year is Rs. 1,000, and practically, the entire allotment has been expended during the course of six months. These three officers have to move about in the districts, in connection with the duties entrusted to them. I had proposed an allotment of Rs. 1,500 on the basis of the expenditure incurred last year, but, at the time the budget was prepared, only Rs. 1,000 was sanctioned. The actual expenditure incurred in 1101 was Rs. 1,596. This year, I am afraid, it may not be possible to get on with that amount. So, I propose to move for an additional allotment, and I request that the Council may be pleased to sanction it.

Motion No. 6.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—*To reduce one rupee from Rs. 1,000 for "II—Agriculture and Panchayats".*

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—I do not want to press my motion to reduce this Supplementary Grant by one rupee, but what I want is to draw the attention of the Government to a particular road the repair of which is absolutely necessary for the well-being of the people in Palanji and neighbouring villages, and I have brought this matter to the attention of the Superintendent. The particular road to which I refer is that one leading to Palanji from Akkikavu, and this is the only road leading to that village. The people there are dependent on the arecanut industry, and if this road is not well-maintained, the people will be reduced to starvation. The rich as well as the poor are entirely depending on the arecanut industry. Few have landed property. Moreover, there is an arecanut market close by in British territory, and if sufficient encouragement is not given to our people by improving this road, this industry will die out in

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our State, and it will be captured by the people living in British territory. There were telegrams regarding the unsatisfactory condition of this road sent to the Diwan, during the last arecanut season, and I have drawn the attention of the Government to this matter in this Council more than once. This road was under the Public Works Department when this House was brought into existence, and it was then pointed out by me that the department should be asked to improve it so that the people and the business might not suffer from the unsatisfactory condition of the road. But, instead of improving the road, it was handed over to the Panchayat Department, and the sum allotted in this current year's budget for its improvement is only Rs. 600, which is quite insufficient. The repair of this road is absolutely necessary and very important. When I visited that village, the people pointed out that, if necessary, the amount allotted for other items for the Kattakampal Panchayat might be utilised for the repair of this road. They consider that this road is so very important that they want nothing else for the time being. The most urgent and important thing which they now ask for is the well maintenance of this road and keeping it in an useful and well-supervised condition so that their industry might not die out. I appeal to the Members of this House and the Government to see that this road is repaired, maintained well before the coming arecanut season.

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—We are taking steps to put that road in order.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—I have been hearing such pious promises for a very long time. I request the Superintendent to pay special attention to the matter so that this complaint might not be raised again here.

Mr. S. F. Nunez.—Sir, when this Supplementary Demand was placed before the Standing Finance Committee, I asked the President for an explanation as to how this increased amount for inspecting the Panchayats came, seeing the allotment made in the last budget, and the President told me that he had not sufficient information then, and he assured me that information will be placed before the Council. I now request the information may be supplied.

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—Now, this Supplementary Demand is particularly for the increased allotment for the inspection of the Panchayats. More amount is necessary than was allotted in the last budget.

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Mr. N. Padmanabha Menon.—The President held out a promise that it will be explained in this House.

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—These three officers were doing not only Panchayat work but also other duties in connection with the Agricultural Department. It is not an extra expenditure. Last year's actual expenditure was Rs. 1,596,and last time, when the budget was prepared, I proposed an allotment of Rs. 1,500 on the basis of last year's expenditure, but only Rs. 1,000 was provided for in the budget, and this year I find that, practically, the entire amount of Rs. 1,000 was spent during the last 6 months. Even now, their duty is not only in connection with the inspection of Panchayats, but they have other agricultural duties also. The Entomologist is working in the Cochin-Kanayannur Taluk to check the spread of cocoanut pests. The Mycologist has duties here as well as elsewhere, in connection with the cocoanut and other diseases. So, I request that the allotment may be sanctioned.

President.—The necessity for this additional allotment could not be anticipated at the time of the preparation of the budget.

Mr. A. Sankara Puduval.—Sir, we have been suggesting that these expert officers in the Agricultural Department should be doing more and more itinerant work. This being the object of the extra allotment, I heartily support it.

Mr. S. F. Nunez.—I have received the explanation, and it is sufficient. I do not press the motion.

The cut motion was not pressed to a division. The Demand was put to votes and carried.

Statement laid on the Table.

Mr. K. Krishna Pisharodi.—Sir, under Rule 52 of the Legislative Council Rules, I beg toplace on the Table the following statement of expenditure authorised by the Government

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